

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

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R 101033Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7242

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION OF JCCIA,
JANUARY 10, 1974

REF: VIENTIANE 0053

1. RLG AND LPF DELEGATIONS WITH BOTH CHAIRMEN
PRESENT HELD THREE-HOUR PLENARY SESSION TODAY.
ACCORDING TO RLG DELEGATION SPOKESMAN LANE, MEETING
WAS SUPPOSED TO DISCUSS DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES OF
JOINT POLICE FORCE (JPF) BUT RLG DELEGATION REQUESTED
POSTPONEMENT OF THIS TOPIC UNTIL ADDITIONAL STUDY BY
"HIGHER AUTHORITIES". DELEGATIONS THEN DISCUSSED IN
GENERAL TERMS CONFIGURATION AND FUNCTIONS OF PROTECTIVE
MILITARY BATTALIONS (PMB) UNDER ARTICLE 10(C) OF LAO
PROTOCOL. LANE SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THREE
MILITARY OFFICERS FROM EACH DELEGATION WOULD MEET TO
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DISCUSS DETAILS OF FOLLOWING SIX MAJOR TOPICS RELATED

TO PMBS:

- A. FACILITIES AND HEADQUARTERS OF EACH PMB.
- B. DETERMINATION OF NUMBER OF TROOPS EACH PMB CAN HAVE AND DEPLOY, PLUS TYPES OF ARMAMENTS.
- C. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK PROCEDURES.
- D. RESUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR TROOPS INVOLVED.
- E. REGULATIONS AND MEASURES TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN SITUATION ARISES REQUIRING ACTION BY PMBS.
- F. DETERMINATION OF TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF OTHER ARMED FORCES TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM TWIN CAPITALS ALONG WITH DEADLINES FOR WITHDRAWAL.

2. LPF DELEGATION SPOKESMAN PHAO SAID LPF SIDE CAME TO TODAY'S MEETING EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS AND SETTLE QUESTION OF DUTIES OF JPF UNDER ARTICLE 10 OF THE PROTOCOL BUT RLG SIDE DEMURRED. PHAO DID NOT EXACERBATE ISSUE BUT DID ASSERT THAT "IT IS NOT LPF FAULT IF THERE IS FURTHER DELAY IN FORMING GOVERNMENT." PHAO CONFIRMED SIX MAJOR TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON PMBS.

3. OUR SOURCE AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ASKED PHAO WHAT IMPORTANT QUESTIONS HAD TO BE DISCUSSED BEFORE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON JPF AND PMBS. PHAO REPLIED THAT THIRD POINT IN NEUTRALIZATION OF TWIN CAPITALS IS APPROVAL OF JOINT MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION FOR EACH CAPITAL AND ITS DISTRICTS. "HOWEVER," PAHO SAID, "IF BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT PRESENT MAYORS AND DISTRICT CHIEFS ARE MEN APPROVING PEACE, RECONCILIATION, NEUTRALITY AND DEMOCRACY, THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR LENGTHY SELECTION PROCESS FOR NEW OFFICIALS."

4. ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING WAS APPARENTLY GOOD, JUDGING FROM PRESS CONFERENCE AND 1130 BREAK.
WHITEHOUSE

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